

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EA-06 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 VO-03

SCA-01 IO-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 FDRE-00 OPR-02 A-01 IGA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /088 W

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P 081422Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4373

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5440

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: SETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: (A) STATE 097854 (B) STATE 107169

I CONSIDER THAT AN APPROACH TO THE EPMG ALONG THE LINES OUTLINED
IN REFTTEL A WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FOR THE FOLLOWING
REASONS:

1. BECAUSE OF ITS IDEOLOGICAL PREDILECTIONS, THE DIRG
MAJORITY WOULD NOT BE AT ALL SYMPATHETIC TO THE PLIGHT OF THE
VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. A SIGNIFICANT INDICATION OF ITS ATTITUDE
TOWARD THE FALL OF THE CAMBODIAN AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENTS
WAS THE POINTED MANNER IN WHICH ETHIOPIAN MEDIA CHARACTERIZED
THOSE DEVELOPMENTS AS A "DEFEAT FOR AMERICAN IMPERIALISM"
AND A VICOTRY FOR THE PEOPLE OF CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM.

2. IN TERMS OF OUTWARD APPEARANCES, THE DIRG HAS CONSISTENTLY
ADVOCATED A NONALIGNED POSTURE, ALBEIT OF LATE ONE WHICH INVOLVES
MUCH MORE FAVORABLE MEDIA TREATMENT OF COMMUNIST THAN OF WESTERN
COUNTRIES. IT SEEMS MOST UNLIKELY THAT THE DIRG WOULD CONSIDER
ACCEPTANCE OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE
GOVERNMENT'S NONALIGNED STANCE AND THE MEDIA'S TREATMENT OF
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EVENTS IN VIETNAM.

3. IN VIEW OF THE CONSIDERATIONS MENTIONED ABOVE, THE DIRG WOULD NOT ONLY REACT NEGATIVELY TO AN EMBASSY SUGGESTION THAT ETHIOPIA ACCEPT VIETNAMESE REFUGEES BUT WOULD CONCLUDE THAT THE EMBASSY OBVIOUSLY DIDNOT UNDERSTAND TODAY'S FACTS OF LIFE IN ETHIOPIA.

4. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE SEVERE UNDERDEVELOPMENT OF ETHIOPIA, THE RECENT INCREASE IN XENOPHOBIC SENTIMENT, THE MANY MANIFESTATIONS OF THE VIEW THAT FOREIGNERS SHOULD NOT HOLD ANY POSITION WHICH AN ETHIOPIAN CAN FULFILL, AND THE ATTITUDE WHICH THE MEDIA HAVE EXPRESSED REGARDING THE FALL OF SOUTH VIETNAM, WE BELIEVE THAT ETHIOPIA WOULD BE A PARTICULARLY UNSUITABLE COUNTRY FOR THE RECEPTION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, QUITE APART FROM THE DIRG'S UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THEM.
HUMMEL

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